

FROM SIENNA TO ROME"

imperfection and a deceit of the demon. It seems, according to what he writes, that two servants of God have had a great revelation that Christ on earth, and whoso has advised him to send for these servants of God, have been deceived, and that this is a human thing and not divine, and has been an inspiration from the devil rather than from God, to wish to draw His servants from their peace and consolation ; saying that, if you and the others came, you would lose your fervour, and thus would not be able to help with prayer, nor abide in spirit with the Holy Father. Too lightly is the spirit harnessed, if it is lost by change of place! It seems that God is an acceptor of places, and that He is to be found only in the wood, and not elsewhere in the time of necessity. Then shall we say that, on the one hand, we desire that the Church of God be reformed, that the thorns be drawn out, and the sweet-smelling flowers of the servants of God be planted therein ; while, on the other side, we say that to send for them, and draw them from peace and quiet of mind, in order that they may come to help this Bark, is a deception of the demon ? He might at least speak for himself, and not speak of the other servants of God in general, since we need not bring the servants of the world into it I Not thus have acted Frate Andrea da Lucca, nor Frate Paolino, such great servants of God, although old and in weak health, who had been so long a time in their peace; nevertheless, at once, with labour and inconvenience to themselves, they set out, and they have come and fulfilled their obedience; and albeit the desire constrains them to return to their cells, they would not therefore depart from the yoke ; but they say : *let what I have said be as not said*; and drown their own wills and their own consolations. Whoso comes, comes to endure and not to be made a prelate, but for the dignity of many labours, with tears, vigils, and continual prayer. So one should do. Now let us distress ourselves no more about this matter, for we should have too much to say ; but I am amazed at one thing, seeing that I know the contrary: that I should see it judged that the Master, Giovanni, has come only to exalt himself. With all my heart I feel intolerable grief at this, seeing, under the